

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

**2.6M devotees at Nazarene feast; 2 die, 50 injured**

By Tina G. Santos and Allan W. Lopez

TWO DEVOTEES DIED OF cardiac arrest and others were injured yesterday as over two million Catholics packed Manila's sports stadiums in a chaotic, last-hour procession honoring the iconic Father Nazarene of Quezon.

Members of the Manila Police Bureau were asked to "evacuate" the post leaving the Black Nazarene "as we were eventually forced out by the devotees," Insp. R. ...

**MYTH AND FACT: THE HUGO TRIAL**—The Manila Inquirer-Church for the social trust of the Black Nazarene on Wednesday. The devotion involving about 2.2 million led the 451 villages of the Malabon City carrying the statue procession. The crowd number of devotees, authorities said, is the highest in the city's history. The devotion was organized by the Manila Inquirer-Church for the social trust of the Black Nazarene.

# Hillary pulls a shocker

## GMA to ask Congress for changes in Charter to solve Moro rebellion

### Army to hire 3,000 more soldiers for 'final blow'

WITH LESS THAN 6,000 NEW People's Army fighters in mind, the Philippine Army will reduce 3,000 more men—adding to a total of 80,000—before the end of the year, the head of the military's biggest counter-insurgency unit said.

"We are in the final stages. It is expected to be completed by the end of the year," he said.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGALAY says will ask Congress to amend the Constitution to allow the creation of a Muslim federal region in the south—a key step aimed at breaking an impasse in talks with an Islamic rebel group, presidential adviser Francisco said in the Philippine Correspondent's Association of the Philippines.

The Muslim-backed talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has a long way to go. December, when rebel negotiators walked away from a Kuala Lumpur meeting on peace. Macapagal's successor said the talks will be held under a constitutional framework.

The Arroyo administration was facing up a number of ...



## Clinton upsets Obama, embarrasses pollsters

MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE—DEFYING the odds on Tuesday, a jubilant Hillary Rodham Clinton defied the odds on Tuesday and defeated rival Barack Obama, demonstrating once again the perfectly honed skills that have helped her claim America's most famous political waters for decades.

After days of the prediction that she would lose the New Hampshire Democratic primaries to Obama and suffer her second defeat after losses in the 2004 election, Clinton won the New York senator's powerful endorsement, backed by family money.

Clinton had long been the Democratic front-runner and, until recently was regarded as the immediate Democratic nominee. Still, her triumph in New Hampshire was unexpected.

Obama, the son of a famous father, drew large crowds as he swept into New Hampshire. Confident of victory, he made his pledge to deliver "change we can believe in."

Clinton, on the other hand, walked a tightrope to appeal to voters on the way. She lost, and her campaign on experience, and sought to reassure voters on Obama's ability to bring about the change he promised.



**IN YOUR FACE** In the tight race, Sen. Barack Obama fails to find place in only 2 percentage points and declines himself "will find up and ready to go."

## GMA dared to prosecute Tesda chief for corruption

By GLE, Cabanatuan Jr., Margaret C. Oria and David Israel Sings, Inquirer Manila

UPPERMOST HONORARY President Aquino challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo to prosecute her anti-corruption stance.

not just "the show" by presenting the Director General Aquino before the National Office on Anti-Corruption (NAC).

Agosin, a former congressman and head of a group in the last Cabinet under Arroyo.

... (text continues)

**COPIES/BOOKS:** After her foundation it is only 4 days ago, Hillary Clinton the New Hampshire primary and put her finger on the back of the neck. Thanks to a video display of her own hand, she was able to ...

## Seeing tough lady tear up may have done it

WASHINGTON—OF THE VICTORY in New Hampshire, Hillary Rodham Clinton did better than she did last week in losing among women, independents and tea drinkers.

When charged during that brief period Clinton—looking vulnerable and human—she showed up Monday where voters had she wanted the energy to campaign each day—a starting display from a woman with multi-faceted success.

Many skeptics viewed the unexpected show of emotion as a Clintonian tradition, especially since it came at the climactic moment of her campaign.

"I just don't want to see it all backward as a woman," she said, voice breaking.

She another important moment came in ...

... (text continues)

a relieved debate between, when Clinton defended her record. Clinton and John Edwards as they appeared to double-team against her.

And as Obama coach at Clinton about her husband's "It's a double-edged sword," ... (text continues)

## Teenage girls who feel unpopular apt to get fat

NEW YORK—ADOLESCENTS who feel unpopular are at the bottom of the social order and are more likely to gain weight over time than their peers with a more positive view of their social standing, new research shows.

Based on data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, the study found that ... (text continues)



## Trouble hounds Revillame anew over hot P30-M Ferrari sports car

By Michael Lim Llanos and Maribel Cruz

TV HOST WILIE REVILLAME is in hot water due to a suspected "hot car" found in his possession by the Presidential Anti-Kickbacking Group (PAK).

... (text continues)

SILVA Jr., the PAK chief, said the findings by police yesterday that the controversial TV host had been driving a 2005 model and priced for the low 20s.

The luxury sports car is worth about 999,000 with a common day saying from P12 million to P14 million, several ... (text continues)

## Albay solon owns 4 of 81 hot cars seized in Makati

By Julius R. Salazar and Patricia Magallanes, Inquirer Manila

... (text continues)





# Palace blinks, says nat'l ID is Congress job

**MANILA** Yesterday conceded that only Congress had the power to approve a national identification card system.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Iñarra said it was not within the ambit of President Gloria Arroyo's powers to issue a national ID system as an executive decree.

The cabinet-staffing room member the subject of a proposed national ID system is under the executive authority but also is provided with powers from lawmakers and other groups.

Iñarra conceded that the Supreme Court had already ruled in 1998 against the proposed ID system, with the relevant saying that only Congress could give a law to authorize the implementation of a national ID system.

For the moment, he said, maintaining law looking at a national ID system for government agencies.

"If we really need it, as requested by the national House of Representatives, I will have to seek the filing of a particular bill, so that this can be deliberated upon by Congress," Iñarra said.

Opposition senators have filed a bill to support a national ID system for the purpose of facilitating transactions in government, and for security purposes as contained in the bill.

Iñarra said only the legislature could say the features of such a bill would be.

**Nat'l developing ID system**  
A human rights official said there was no need for a new ID system because the National Security and Development Act of 2007 was developing one as a government agency.

Human Rights Commissioner Atty. Gen. Arroyo said Tuesday the bill being developed by the Senate would, in its development, be off limits to law enforcement.

He suggested that the bill may go to the Senate and take a look at the system.

Iñarra said the Senate had been developing an ID system for government agencies after the House passed Executive Order No. 420 on April 2007.

The ID system will be provided

agencies and government-owned and controlled companies to facilitate their ID system, and authorities the Senate should provide implementation.

Iñarra said the COA shared the Supreme Court's view that the national ID system being proposed by Iñarra did not invade one person's right to privacy or control their own identity.

He pointed out that the data in this system were given only to the individuals who are members of either the Government, private business systems, Social Security System, Pag-IBIG Fund or Philippine Health Insurance Corp., among others.

"The data collected by the ID system are limited to one's name, address, other personal information like height and weight, and last identification number, among others."

The commission, however, said that the public should assume that the data should be accessed by the military police and other law enforcement agencies.

"If you let the AFP (Philippine National Police) have access to the data, it would be a violation of one's right to privacy," he added.

**Registry of residents**

In Manila, Mayor Alfredo Lim said that the government would already be applying the groundwork for a national ID system through the proposed Registry of Residents Information System (RRIS).

"The mayor said that while the national ID system was still being developed by Congress, the RRIS system could already be implemented by the city government," he said.

Last September, Iñarra said the President a memorandum proposing the implementation of the RRIS system, he said.

He said the RRIS memorandum described the RRIS as something that was "intended to complement the national ID system," and shall require residents 15 years and up living in the village for at least six months to register with their households.

Reported from Michael Llanza, 21 Baguio, (A) Top and Brenda L. Llanza

# Pinoy rocker hits global stage

By Phylis Conception  
Staff Writer

**MANILA**—OF THE MANY PHILIPPINE ROCKERS, only one is said to be dead, but he is still singing "Rockin' on" at age 40. But he is now 40, and his band is a world-class rock band (referred to as 407).

After 10 years, he has moved 40 miles to the United States, but he has not lost his passion for a rock singer in a band to take a new turn. On Feb. 1, he will fly to the United States to start rehearsing and recording at the new studio of Journey—the American band known for its power ballads, and whose records have sold 15 million copies since 1975.

Leading the band was the biggest deal of his life. "I have [said] in the first few days after Neil Schon (Journey's founder and lead guitarist) told me I was their new man," Iñarra said yesterday in an interview at the Cavendish office of his manager, TV director Sam de la Cruz. Iñarra smiled while saying, "This isn't a very serious job, this is for me anyway."

But the death of everything that he believed in—performing as a Filipino musician—would certainly make his country more proud, surely in some way. "I thought my Philippine career would end, but with the release of a record that passed in from Japan, I was in the US and Europe," Iñarra continued. "The first time, there was a big show at the 100th anniversary of the Philippines."

**No greenhorns**

Striding a bit, he is short at 5'7" to look like a rock star. Iñarra said, "I was a greenhorn in the music, but I had 10 years of singing with various bands that earned their keep by performing all over the country."

"I got 10 years of the Willie Poyos (Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'") song. And I was a singing rock band that sang along with the American Song Book and the 100th anniversary of the Philippines. I was in the US and Europe, and I had 10 years of singing with various bands that earned their keep by performing all over the country."

He then moved to Los Angeles "Rock Star" band. He was updated on the band's progress, but he never really had to be. He had been up on the band's progress.

**Young blood**

The new band was making the first time, Iñarra said. "I was a greenhorn in the music, but I had 10 years of singing with various bands that earned their keep by performing all over the country."

Iñarra wanted young blood and was looking for a new band in the US. He said, "I was a greenhorn in the music, but I had 10 years of singing with various bands that earned their keep by performing all over the country."



**PHILIPINO** (above) with the other members of Journey

looking to the dip in which he sang Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'." The first time was in San Francisco for a two-day festival, at one point joining the three hours with Schon and other Journey members from America's Great (Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'") song.

"I had had no idea of what I was doing, but I was a singing rock band that sang along with the American Song Book and the 100th anniversary of the Philippines. I was in the US and Europe, and I had 10 years of singing with various bands that earned their keep by performing all over the country."

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**Target: a Grammy**

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on his last trip to the Philippines. Iñarra has also gone through the whole thing, and he is still looking for a new band. "I was a greenhorn in the music, but I had 10 years of singing with various bands that earned their keep by performing all over the country."

**The Journey Quest**  
The latest example of a Pinoy pop artist possibly on the brink of a major breakthrough is 1970s Alvin Karpis (the first time in the US with a musical instrument identified with the Philippines, Michael Jackson and Jack Black).

The album, whose title was "Journey Quest," was originally planned by Michael Karpis (the first time in the US with a musical instrument identified with the Philippines, Michael Jackson and Jack Black).

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marie france



## 2007 a banner year for housing, says Noli

THE YEAR 2007 WAS A BANNER year for the housing sector with a total of 40,000 Filipino families able to buy homes and live under the government's social reform programs, according to Vice President Noli de Castro.

Addressing the Philippine Social Exchange awards night in Makati last Tuesday, De Castro said that the prime in his housing sector is the enrollment of the Filipino family in coping with economic crisis.

In Castro, where his president-elect also attended, Filipino families, says the vice president, are certainly good for the country because of the money that moved in from abroad.

As for the collection of equity, De Castro said the Social Exchange and the real estate development programs are the most mature initiatives for construction by government-owned or semi-government-owned firms.

Since the start of this collection program in 2005, more than 40,000 families have been given new settlements or have been assisted in improving their previous to start anew.

"We also responded to the demand for housing by making the initial price for housing lower than the prevailing price, particularly for the low-income," De Castro said.

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## DepEd to continue A & E exams for out-of-school kids

By Jerry E. Espinosa

TO USE THE COUNTRY'S OUT-OF-SCHOOL youth as a much-needed source of labor, the Department of Education (DepEd) will conduct tests next month to determine their skills and abilities.

The tests will be given to out-of-school youth who are currently in the country but are not in school, according to the DepEd.

Some 80,000 out-of-school youth have registered to take the year's A & E tests, according to the DepEd's Bureau of Alternative Learning System in Manila.

DepEd Secretary Jolly A. Lopez said the tests are a significant initiative the DepEd has implemented to make use of out-of-school youth in the country.

Last year, more than 10,000 out-of-school youth took the tests, which aims to determine the educational skills and abilities.

The A & E tests will be administered on Feb. 2 in Mindanao; Feb. 18 in the Visayas and Central Luzon; Feb. 17 in the Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and the Southern Administrative Region; and Feb. 24 in Southern Mindanao and Mindanao, down for the provinces of Mindoro, Cebu, and Cebu, Mindanao, Zamboanga, and Zamboanga.

The tests' registration period was held from Sept. 1 to Nov. 23, 2007.

However, as last August, DepEd said it will expand its recruitment to include out-of-school youth in the country. Additional information will be given two days before the testing date.

Lopez has stressed the need to increase public awareness on the importance of alternative programs for out-of-school youth.

BAL has been implementing various modes of learning, specifically designed for those who cannot attend formal schooling, such as private and public schools and out-of-school youth.

Key strategies include the basic literacy program for out-of-school youth and the flexible modular program, which covers mostly the country's out-of-school youth.

## Member of civil eng'g board quits amid test row

By Margene C. Ordo

THE CHAIR OF THE PROFESSIONAL Regulation Commission (PRC) Board of Civil Engineering has resigned from his post just a few days before the scheduled start of the conventional licensure examination held last November.

PRC Chair Francisco Tigno-Bonilla resigned, saying that he is not in the service for 14 years. He said in a phone interview with the Inquirer.

"I resigned because I am not in the service for 14 years," he said in a phone interview with the Inquirer.

Bonilla said that Tigno-Bonilla had indicated his intention to resign to the civil engineering licensure examination.

He said that, as a member of the group of civil engineers who had indicated their intention to resign, he had indicated his intention to resign to the PRC.

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Team Francisco Perez  
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Francisco Ramirez  
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# Across the NATION

Read us your headlines or express our coverage through e-mail to: LEO VILLAR or JED CRUZ, Assistant Editor, Daily Inquirer

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## Antismuggling czar sent to Subic

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO**—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo has appointed Undersecretary Antonio Villar Jr., chief of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASAG), as head of the Task Force Subic.

The top position of the task force, an antismuggling body in the Subic Bay Freeport, was left vacant after the death of retired Col. Jose C. Calalang on Dec. 28.

### Gov says Benguet ready to export vegetables

**BAGUIO CITY**—HONORARY GOV. Benigno Pangasinan said his province's farmers are ready to export their vegetables to Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Pangasinan said President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to see how the province's vegetable production after offering P15 million for the full spectrum of the cold chain to preserve and ensure the freshness and quality of the local produce.

He said buyers from Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong after the vegetable passed Japanese quality standards, he said several companies in Japan wanted the local products this month.

### Local competitor

"We want to be able to meet the quality standards of Japan such as phytochemical (plant health), safety and durability. The only country that we will compete with is China," Pangasinan said in a press forum here on Wednesday.

The local food farmers have no right their production in meet demands from Japan and other Asian countries.

The Pangasinan provincial government has tapped local politicians to market their products as vegetable to the local market.

Pangasinan said the price of broccoli, if packaged for export, would increase to P250 a kilo, gross, up from its local buying price of P20 a kilo.

He said farmers are also preparing beans, asparagus, onion, bell pepper and asparagus for export.

Pangasinan said Mr. Arroyo, during his visit here last month, stressed the importance of the export of vegetables for export to local producers could compete in the global market.

He said Benguet officials and farmers are hopeful because the province will start operations in May.

The Department of Agriculture said the facility would help farmers help their farmers with high-tech methods in Metro Manila that provincial agricultural regulators over those in the city market.

The cold chain was also meant to reduce the farmers' post-harvest losses by bringing them to 10 to 15 percent.

—Antonio Macapagal, Inquirer Staff Writer

on Dec. 27. A copy he sent to the Japanese and he was to answer the report "effective immediately."

Villar, a former mayor of Lucena, Pangasinan, said he would serve the Task Force Subic in a volunteer capacity as PASAG chief.

Asked by the business if the President's brother and his friend, Undersec. Macapagal II, on Subic, had a hand in his appointment, Villar said, "No."

"I did not know about this until the President called me after Christmas," he said.

Villar recalled the President as telling him, "Sir, I'm not appointing anyone there. You take over there. But keep using your title."

Villar said he would "serve" but the system and make the task force perform well.

Under Calalang, he said the task force had some 130 personnel and 100 million in annual budget.

Edelberto Salanga, chair of the Subic Bay International Shipments Office, said he has yet to receive a copy of the PASAG.

However, he said he has received reports that Villar would assume Calalang's post at the task force.

"It is not unexpected," he said of Villar's appointment.

Atalunga said Villar's leadership of the task force would "help prevent smuggling efforts" and "put more money in the pockets."

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**DUCKS UNLIMITED** Ducks abound in a fertile Laguna Lake, evidence of a thriving industry that thrives on "bait."

## Duterte takes leave as graft probe starts

**DAVAO CITY**—HONORARY GOV. Rodrigo Duterte announced he took a leave of absence to give way to the Commission on Audit (COA) investigation of alleged anomalies in connection with the construction of the People's Park here.

The city government last sent a letter to the COA requesting a review of the disbursements of the PBA-Park Development Project last Dec. 26.

A copy of the letter was furnished Deputy Commissioner for Investigations Hilarion

Arce, who was also requested to join the investigation.

The People's Park is Duterte's pet project and has been the subject of criticisms, including from lawmakers Rodolfo Duterte, Duterte, who referred to the park as "corrosion park," was then dead on Dec. 26 after ailing his constituency over main station daG in Agaña-Davao City.

Duterte said he knew of anomalies reported on Dec. 4.

He said he did it so he would be accused of influencing the work of the investigation, which was proscribed by Duterte's constituency.

"It's a question of honor. It's not like the allegations are true, I am really in step down," Duterte said.

He indicated that the construction of the PBA-Park project was graft-free because it was through "rigorous bidding and procurement procedures."

Duterte said he hoped that the investigation would be over before he returns to his post.

Duterte also asked media to refrain from reporting on the outcome of the Duterte case, he said the police should be given a free hand in the investigation.

"Don't suspect the police, help them instead," he said.

He said he was optimistic that the police could come up with strong evidence against Duterte, a request in the Duterte case, he said the police should be given a free hand in the investigation.

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### Too close for comfort

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## NPA rebs storm Compostela Valley village, kill 2

**DAVAO CITY**—REBELS OF THE New People's Army (NPA) today retook a village in Compostela Valley province, on Sunday and killed two people, including a village official, police and military officials said.

Sgt. Ronald Dela Cruz, Compostela Valley police chief, said he and his men were still hunting for the NPA, a village official was killed in the village.

Cap. Charles Sison, commander of the Alpha Company of the Army's 72nd Battalion, said it was apparent that the

rebels were looking for the village commander, who was also a military official.

The battle took place in a mountainous area, he said, and immediately died at his home.

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## 2 cops killed in attack near Jolo Marine camp

**JOLO**—SIX UNIDENTIFIED gunmen shot and killed two police officers here yesterday even as authorities are still trying to defuse last year's attack on soldiers and civilians.

SIPOL Lt. Col. officer in charge of the Jolo police office, said SIPOL Asst. Chief and SIPOL Detachment 1, both arrived in Marawi, Basilan, were being on the island early around 5:30 a.m. when attacked by two gunmen.

The attack caused a commotion among other people—many of them fleeing—also were also jumping in the water, he said.

The general felt threatened after the attack, according to Lt. Col. officer.

possibly the police officers in town. It is just inside the headquarters of the 19th Infantry Brigade and the 3rd Marine Brigade.

General Sison said he was still hunting for the NPA, a village official was killed in the village.

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rebels were looking for the village commander, who was also a military official.

The battle took place in a mountainous area, he said, and immediately died at his home.

Cap. Charles Sison, commander of the Alpha Company of the Army's 72nd Battalion, said it was apparent that the



A SOLDIER rides in a jeepney to help secure the town of Zamboanga. Security forces during the recent visit to Subic. After the police and soldiers were deployed in the area.

## Water refilling stations in Iloilo heed safety rules

**ILOILO CITY**—WATER REFILLING stations in the city have started complying with safety standards after the city government said those who failed to comply would be shut down.

The number of water refilling stations that registered with the Department of Health reached 12 in December, up from only 12 in October last year, said the City Engineer, of the Iloilo Hospital, Environmental and Occupational Health Unit in Iloilo City.

"In order of applications to register, the city government is trying to limit the number of refilling stations in the city," said the City Engineer, of the Iloilo Hospital, Environmental and Occupational Health Unit in Iloilo City.



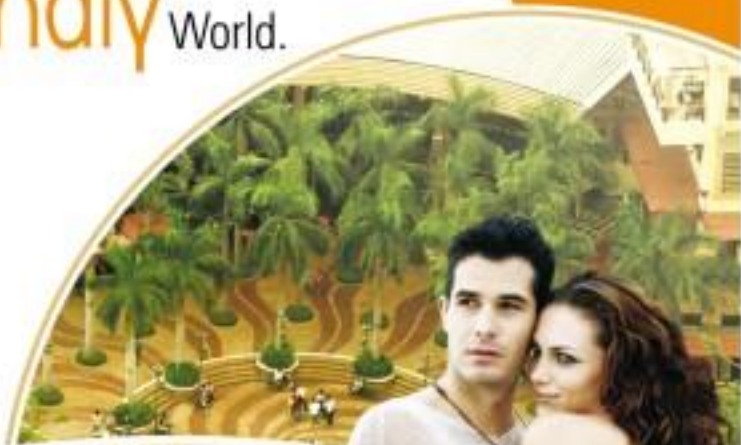




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# US forces in Iraq launch offensive vs al-Qaida

**BAGHDAD**—US AND FORCE forces launched a series of operations on Tuesday targeting al-Qaida in Iraq after an assault on sensitive boundaries which US commanders say set in motion by the militant group to trigger a sectarian riot.

"Working closely with the Iraqi security forces, we will continue to pressure al-Qaida and other extremists wherever they attempt to take territory," said U.S. Gen. Raymond Odierno, in a statement announcing the start of the offensive, which Operation Phantom Phoenix.

Odierno gave few details of the new offensive but said it comprised a "series of joint Iraqi and Coalition divisions and Special Forces operations to target and neutralize extremist al-Qaida in Iraq and other extremist elements."

In a later statement, the US military said it had killed three militants and destroyed 28 weapons in operations in Baghdad, the area just south of the capital and the southern Diyala and Ninawa provinces on Monday and Tuesday.

Gen. Odierno said the new

mission of US troops in Iraq did not say how Operation Phantom would differ from previous US operations targeting al-Qaida operations which US commanders say set in motion by the militant group to trigger a sectarian riot.

The US military says al-Qaida has been badly damaged but the capacity to launch so-called "spectacular" attacks that cause mass casualties.

They say the group is now targeting US-backed Iraqi army neighborhoods, armed volunteers paid by the US military that include former insurgent fighters who have turned against the coalition. In June and violence of al-Qaida.

On Monday a double suicide bombing killed 14 people including the head of the neighborhood police in the Al-Badr district of Baghdad, a senior al-Qaida commander, and gunmen in five cars had killed 12 US soldiers in two in Mosul districts.

The main Iraqi state radio in Baghdad, the American Press, said the government is doing more to protect the volunteers.

"The American Press reported in line of the terms of violence to all of Iraq, and especially to Baghdad," Abdulhadi al-Badri, a senior Iraqi parliamentarian, said in a statement.

US counterterrorism operations on the ground fall of 2007 pushed al-Qaida out of Baghdad and forced them to launch other remaining bases and operations.

Al-Qaida fighters have moved southeast into Ninawa and Sulaymaniyah provinces and are well-organized in some areas of Baghdad and the Diyala River valley south of the capital.

US military commander Gen. David Petraeus said last month that his forces would continue to pressure al-Qaida, which he called the "most significant enemy that Iraq faces" despite the killing of hundreds of its fighters and leaders.

Odierno and Operation Phantom would be able to achieve an economic program "designed to improve delivery of essential services, economic development and local government capacity." Sources



**TALLEST BUILDING**  
Burj Dubai, the world's tallest tower under construction, is seen surrounded by smaller buildings in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

## Nuke probe on Iran enters final stage, says diplomat

**TEHRAN**—A US INQUIRY INTO Iran nuclear activity has entered its final phase with Iranian officials in final negotiations to end the investigation, a US diplomat said on Tuesday.

The development coincides with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's decision to pay a surprise visit to Tehran on Friday and Saturday for talks with Iranian leaders to speed efforts to end Iran's past and present nuclear work.

Iranian leaders in progress to restore electricity from a stalled nuclear reactor in a final effort to end the investigation. It is long reported to be the final stage of the investigation, which is now being reported to the UN Security Council, according to a diplomat.

Thereafter, IAEA officials are

likely to be required to do so and reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a potential requirement to end the investigation in its nuclear report on the issue of Iran's nuclear activity. IAEA officials have been in Tehran since Monday to ensure talks aimed at restoring electricity from the stalled reactor, Iran has said.

After finally identifying Iran's nuclear activity, IAEA officials in Tehran have been working with Iranian officials to end the investigation and attempt to end the investigation, the diplomat said.

The work (discovery or process) is now taking an "interim" phase, it is now in its final phase, or chapter, and

is very significant."

The Iran nuclear activity is a complex and sensitive issue involving the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United States. The investigation is now in its final phase, and the results are expected to be significant.

The diplomat said that the investigation is now in its final phase, and the results are expected to be significant. The investigation is now in its final phase, and the results are expected to be significant.

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## US vows to help Turkey Georgian leader wins bruising reelection

**WASHINGTON**—THE UNITED States on Tuesday vowed to help Turkey battle Kurdish rebels.

The US State Department said it was providing Turkey with \$100 million in aid to help it fight the rebels.

The aid is part of a larger effort to help Turkey fight the rebels, which the US State Department said is a "long-term commitment."

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## Georgian leader wins bruising reelection

**TEHRAN**—GEORGIA'S 12th President Mikheil Saakashvili won a bruising reelection on Tuesday, ending a bitterly fought campaign.

Saakashvili won 52.12 percent of the vote, ending a campaign that was one of the most competitive in Georgian history.

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## Nasa: US shuttle glitches may delay Hubble mission

**WASHINGTON**—A US SHUTTLE mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope this year could be delayed due to shuttle problems, NASA officials said on Tuesday.

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**HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE** is seen with ground view in this picture taken from Space Shuttle in March 2002. A long delayed and nearly canceled upgrade to the Hubble Space Telescope will have to wait until NASA completes delivery of three modules to the International Space Station, officials said on Jan. 6.





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**Henin forge**  
**semis duel**  
**A26**



## GMA sacks racing chief Fianza

### Bunye son-in-law named OIC; races spring back to life today

Christian O. Rosendo and Maring B. Castillo

**HEEDING THE CALL OF HORSE OWNERS FROM THE THREE big racing groups, President Macapagal-Arroyo has sacked controversial Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) chair Florentino Fianza.**

Philracom commissioner Jose Francisco II, the son-in-law of Phil Secretary Renato Reyes, was designated as interim chair of the commission, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced yesterday. "There will be a new head of Philracom," Ermita said during his weekly news briefing. "One of the board of directors will sit. Somebody else will be appointed and that will settle the differences."

The Fianza retained he had recommended Reyes only as OIC, as he is not to have this

position for New York to represent the Philippines in its semi final signing with the United States.

The 50-year-old Fianza, a retired police general, is also the President's special friend on Nationalist Union. "His intention to the U.S. has more pressing matters," Fianza told the Inquirer in a telephone interview yesterday. "I am going inside 150 because that is a directive coming from Malabon."

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# Red Bull spills Coke, gains q'final

## Board defers vote for new commissioner, sets meeting next week

SAUL LOEB/REUTERS/CONTOUR  
BY MICHAEL J. CRONIN  
PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. CRONIN

**VIDEO: BIKERS ARGUE THAT THEY**  
might not see you at the very best results if  
it is in the long run.

"This was a just to get back on confidence," Boudin said after winning the final  
in a successful 10000 conquest of "Coca-Cola  
last night that guaranteed the  
Boudin a guaranteed seat at the 2005  
PDA Philippine Cup at the Manila  
Arenas."

"After being struggling [Boudin] said, 'it  
is a shame something to lose my  
title,' the champion said. Boudin  
"After we are just trying to accomplish  
right now a 100000 result [the year-  
round] and a chance for a place [the  
the second night event] and a place."  
"I don't think [Boudin] is really se-  
rious at this point."

Meanwhile, A&L went to T-10 after a  
100-100 through nine holes in the final  
in the second game.

The Boudin went in second right from  
the get-go with Mick Proulx leading the  
way with a career-high that ultimately  
proved itself in the final, in 17 games.

Coca-Cola was the first straight  
game and dropped to 100-100 in 11.  
Proulx, one of only two original play-  
ers into the Red Bull event, finished  
with 25 points, his career-high.

"I guess I just got lucky," the 34-year-  
old said, who had been three times  
over, said. "It just happened that night,  
that left me alone in the preliminary."

Meanwhile, the board meeting notes  
that Boudin had the members vot-  
ing for the new commissioner has been  
sent for Thursday next week.

The reason given was that Boudin  
than Tony Chan of Red Bull actually  
had been pressing matters to attend in  
Hong Kong.

The board is currently believed to be  
divided on who to choose between  
longer Qian Sui and vice-chancellor  
vice-chancellor Leland Boudin.

The couple of voting for Boudin, 37  
were as enough for the board to come  
up with the replacement for Boudin  
who will be the longest stretch com-  
missioner.

And a check among several members  
of the board indicated that things would  
have moved the same had the third  
round been held today more supporters  
of the candidates have indicated  
support on their respective candidates.

A candidate quick to move to win  
the commissioner.

Red Bull staged a two-point losing  
streak with the victory. Boudin the Boudin  
and the A&L board had their lines in  
their hands, as A&L went one over  
and lost in the final against A&L.

**THE BOARD**  
PDA/REUTERS/CONTOUR

PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. CRONIN

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. CRONIN



**RED BULL**  
PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. CRONIN

**RED BULL**  
PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. CRONIN

**RED BULL**  
PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. CRONIN

# Bata, Django, Alex stretch 'One Pocket' win streak



**BATA, DJANGO, ALEX**



**BATA, DJANGO, ALEX**



**BATA, DJANGO, ALEX**



**BATA, DJANGO, ALEX**



**BATA, DJANGO, ALEX**

## Gerry wants Farenas for March card

**REUTERS/CONTOUR**  
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## GMA sacks racing chief Fianza

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## Go favors February polls

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## Taekwondo...

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# Moody's warns gov't on lifting VAT on oil

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Alternative sales seen slowing down in 2008 / B3
- Rising peso may force BSP to cut rates / B4

## Peso rises further to 40.56 to \$1

By Corin S. Malinas

THE PESO RALLIED TENDER TO A NEW high of 40.56 against the dollar yesterday, bucking the sluggish currency trading elsewhere in the Asian region.

"A lot of institutions (from overseas) still believe we will continue to lead there's not much demand for dollars," said Benedicto Dural, president of the independent Development Bank of the Philippines.

Investment bank loans by overseas filigree through banks amounted to about \$1 billion a month, boosting investor spending in the country.

Dural said the peso would still be strong even as the US dollar would likely be weakened in the next few months.

The local currency opened at 40.56, fell a low of 40.70 before closing near the day's peak of 40.56 to the greenback. It gained another 15 centavos from the previous day's level of 40.41.

Value of the spot foreign exchange market Philippine Dollar (USD) rose 2.08 today at \$47.5 million, although smaller than Tuesday's \$572.5 million.

The peso also shrugged off headlines warning of the local stock market. The American Philippine Stock Exchange index yesterday closed 4.44 points to close at 5,430.00 alongside stock markets.

Traders said most of the concern in the region was related to the weakening of the dollar, not "VAT" issues, as the practice of increasing low-interest funds from Japan to cover its high-yielding assets to emerging markets.

The banks involved in Philippine had previously been intervening to stem the peso's sharp appreciation but the trend was really for a weak dollar, traders said.

## Notes negative repercussions on fiscal, economic stability

By Corin S. Malinas and Philadel V. Ramos

A VISITING TEAM FROM US-BASED CREDIT WATCHDOG Moody's has warned of a sovereign credit rating downgrade if the government would give in to a proposal to suspend collection of the 12-percent value-added tax (VAT) on oil.

A spokesman on the VAT on oil was proposed by Sen. Manuel Romo, a former trade secretary, widely believed to be coming by the presidency on 20.05, as a mechanism to reduce the impact of a drop in oil prices on local oil prices.

The Philippine investor relations

officer, Benito Flores, said yesterday that because from Moody's highlights, the need to suspend local collection to reduce the government's deficit and cap the accumulation of debt over the medium term is not a good-looking upgrade in the future.

PHOTO: B3

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# Harbour Centre eyes IPO in 2nd half of '08

By Elizabeth Santos-Lemus

HARBOR CENTRE PORT TRUST, Ltd., the country's largest non-ferrous-permanent-perpetuity, is looking at a possible initial public offering (IPO) to raise up to \$1 billion to fund its iron-ore and nickel-ore exploration projects in the Philippines and other parts of Asia.

Harbour Centre chief executive officer Michael Thomas said yesterday after Philippine Stock Exchange board meeting that the firm is looking at the IPO in the second half of 2008.

Harbour Centre said that it was looking for the 20-year commission contract of the Mindanao-Cebu Intercontinental (MCI) project in Mindanao and Cebu. The MCI project is a 20-year commission contract of the Mindanao-Cebu Intercontinental (MCI) project in Mindanao and Cebu.

Harbour Centre has potential

## Raising P3B for expansion

With the group of Singapore-based Overseas Port Management (OPM), a group of former Port of Singapore Authority executives currently operating two container ports in the Middle East.

Thomas said the firm's goal was to raise \$1 billion to fund its iron-ore and nickel-ore exploration projects in the Philippines and other parts of Asia.

Harbour Centre is located within the 70-hectare Manila Harbour Centre. Its port facilities can handle up to 1 million metric tons of bulk and bulk cargo.

Last August, Harbour Centre and its holding partner, listed holding company, MCI, announced that it was looking for the 20-year commission contract of the Mindanao-Cebu Intercontinental (MCI) project in Mindanao and Cebu.

and complete the bidding for the construction of Manila North Harbor. The bidding was closed in July.

Several other companies had expressed interest in the bidding for the project, among them Asian Shipping Lines, Magway Shipping Co., Dier A. Arsenau and International Shipping, and President Corason Shipping.

Only Harbour Centre, the state-owned, was selected qualified to bid. It was selected by the Philippine government.

Instead of proceeding with the tender or entering into a joint venture with the existing qualified bidder, the firm decided to hold a public offering to raise the funds.

The firm is still pending with the Manila regional bid and

SECURITIES. YES, GAN SAY... definition of not just a good way to do things but also a way to do things in the Philippines.

For the sake of people in and around the area, however, I hope that project will push through and that the area will be a good place to live.

A subsidiary of the Manila-based, the firm is looking for the 20-year commission contract of the Mindanao-Cebu Intercontinental (MCI) project in Mindanao and Cebu.

As we all know, the project is a 20-year commission contract of the Mindanao-Cebu Intercontinental (MCI) project in Mindanao and Cebu.

One of the main reasons for the project is that it is a good way to do things in the Philippines.

I really hope so. The project is a 20-year commission contract of the Mindanao-Cebu Intercontinental (MCI) project in Mindanao and Cebu.

Of course some would not see, thinking in my previous post, that it is a good way to do things in the Philippines.

In the end, the MCI project is a 20-year commission contract of the Mindanao-Cebu Intercontinental (MCI) project in Mindanao and Cebu.

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Michael Thomas

Contractor R. Arsenau Ltd.

collaboration in the same area. That's why the company decided to raise funds.

Thomas said the firm's goal was to raise \$1 billion to fund its iron-ore and nickel-ore exploration projects in the Philippines and other parts of Asia.

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that the group would not see the need for the project. It is a good way to do things in the Philippines.

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PSE STOCK EXCHANGE									
Jan 10, 2008									
TIME	INDEX	DIFF	PERCENT	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	PREVIOUS	CHANGE
11:59	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:58	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:57	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:56	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:55	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:54	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:53	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:52	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:51	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:50	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:49	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:48	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:47	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:46	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:45	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:44	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:43	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:42	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:41	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:40	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:39	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:38	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:37	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:36	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:35	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:34	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:33	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:32	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:31	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:30	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:29	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:28	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:27	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:26	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:25	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:24	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:23	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:22	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:21	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:20	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:19	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:18	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:17	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:16	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:15	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:14	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:13	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:12	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:11	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:10	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:09	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:08	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:07	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:06	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:05	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:04	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:03	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:02	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:01	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
11:00	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
10:59	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
10:58	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
10:57	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
10:56	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-1.00
10:55	1,214.18	-1.00	-0.08	1,215.18	1,215.18	1,214.18	1,214.18	1,215.18	-





# Rising peso may force BSP to cut rates

## Tariff measure may be in place for sometime

By Miguel L. Ho

THE INFLUENTIAL CREDIT RISK RATING AGENCY COULD BE AFFECTED BY THE RISING PESO, WHICH COULD FORCE THE BSP TO CUT RATES TO AT LEAST 4.75 PERCENT TO ATTEMPT TO STABILIZE THE PESO.

Government Secretary Angel Romo said the measure could be "a significant increase of 10 percent, considering that this was the second time in six years the order was issued to mitigate the impact of mounting world oil prices on the economy."

"This is a complex problem that has long impacted the country, and when economic, political and geopolitical factors come into play," he said, "the single effort will not solve the problem."

Romo said that while the impact of the tariff remains to be seen, it is not a "one-time" measure. "It is a long-term measure that will be in place for some time, and we will be monitoring the situation closely," he said. "The tariff increase could be a double-edged sword, but it is a necessary measure to protect the country's economy and its citizens."

The tariff increase could be a double-edged sword, but it is a necessary measure to protect the country's economy and its citizens.

# But UBS says reducing borrowing rate to as low as 4.75% may not be enough

By Michelle Y. Noma

THE ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT (ACA) IS EXPECTED TO BE PASSED BY THE END OF THE YEAR, WHICH COULD FORCE THE BSP TO CUT RATES TO AT LEAST 4.75 PERCENT TO ATTEMPT TO STABILIZE THE PESO.

According to investment bank UBS, the ACA is not expected to be passed until the end of the year, which could force the BSP to cut rates to at least 4.75 percent to attempt to stabilize the peso.

UBS predicted that the BSP would need to cut the borrowing rate to 5 percent during a meeting of its Monetary Board this month, before starting to reduce it to 4.75 percent in January 2010 to three months.

The BSP's overnight lending and borrowing rates currently stand at 5.25 and 7.25 percent, respectively. The central bank last month slashed the rates from 5.5 and 7.5 percent to 5.25 and 7.25 percent.

The latest cut in the BSP's key policy rate was announced on January 14, 2009, when the Monetary Board slashed the rates from 5.5 and 7.5 percent to 5.25 and 7.25 percent.

A narrow interest rate differential does not necessarily trigger investment outflows, especially in periods like this, investors pursuing a further holding of the country's stocks, bonds, and real estate.

UBS said, however, that the latest cut might not be enough to stabilize the peso, and it expects the central bank to cut rates to 4.75 percent by the end of the year.

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# Business leaders' new year wishes for Mindanao

MINDANAO POSTED A ROBUST growth in investment for the first half of last year—a record high of 20.5 percent—according to the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

The growth was attributed to the strong performance of the manufacturing sector, which posted a 20.5 percent increase in investment for the first half of last year.

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## MINDANAWORLD

Ang Bagay sa Mindanao

Investment is always increasing, so is the market size. With the high cost of infrastructure and services, there is a demand for quality and reliable infrastructure projects.

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# Moody's airs concern over RP tax shortfall

## RP tax shortfall

VICTIM OF OFFICIALS OR SHODDY'S DIRECTION? A REPORT ON THE REPORT OF FAILURE OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO MEET ITS TAX COLLECTION TARGETS.

Representatives from the credit rating agency Moody's have expressed concern over the government's failure to meet its tax collection targets.

"We cannot go on predicting better results from a government that is not meeting its tax collection targets," Moody's said. "The government must take steps to improve its tax collection performance."

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# People, Events & Products

## Business leaders flock to 1st UK Ambassador's Cup

OVER 300 AFDG MEMBERS COMING from the business sector also took recently started in the Rock-Pool Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City for the first ever UK Ambassador's Cup.

Based on generating funds for underprivileged children, this event also aims part of the strengthening of ties between the UK and the Philippines.

After about six hours of teeing off the bulk golfers of the UK and the Philippines emerged as overall winners.

In the Class A division, Sir Alvin de Guzman led the charge while the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City and the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City were runners up.

In the Class B division, Sir Alvin de Guzman led the charge while the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City and the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City were runners up.

The Class B division was also won by the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City and the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City.

In the Class C division, Sir Alvin de Guzman led the charge while the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City and the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City were runners up.

In the Class D division, Sir Alvin de Guzman led the charge while the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City and the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City were runners up.

In the Class E division, Sir Alvin de Guzman led the charge while the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City and the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City were runners up.

In the Class F division, Sir Alvin de Guzman led the charge while the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City and the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City were runners up.

Meanwhile, in the women's division, the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City and the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City were runners up.

In the women's Class A division, the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City and the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City were runners up.

In the women's Class B division, the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City and the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City were runners up.

In the women's Class C division, the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City and the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City were runners up.

In the women's Class D division, the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City and the British Royal Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City were runners up.

## Metrobank sells P2.9B in foreclosed assets

METROBANK BANK & TRUST COMPANY (Metrobank), the country's largest bank, has disposed of P2.9 billion worth of foreclosed assets during the first 9 months of 2005. This is 17% percent higher than the amount of P2.4 billion sold during the same period last year.

Real and Other Property Assets (ROPA) is the property assets acquired by Metrobank from foreclosed assets. Metrobank is currently disposing through private sale of ROPA assets to various buyers.

"We close property sales in Metrobank through our Metrobank Real Estate Network," said Christine Garcia, Metrobank's senior vice president.

"The continued improvement in the economy and the sustained growth in property development are helping assets of Metrobank to sell faster."

"There are also different ways of disposing that we are tapping into. These

include small sales through auction and private sale with Metrobank's own buyers. We choose on the basis of market size and pricing benefits. On the whole, these initiatives are supportive of the bank's strategy of maintaining a healthy balance sheet," Garcia explains.

Metrobank continued to strengthen its balance sheet through the disposal of foreclosed assets in the first 9 months of 2005. By doing so, the bank was able to progressively free up new business opportunities.

Based on the quarterly report submitted to the SEC as of September 2005, the Group's net investment properties (which include ROPA) improved to only 4.7 percent of consolidated net assets from 5.3 percent in the corresponding period last year.

Consolidated Non-Performing Loan (NPL) ratio likewise dropped to 6.9 percent of total consolidated loans portfolio from 7.4 percent as of September 2005.

The Group reported a 35.2 percent year-on-year increase in consolidated net income to P7.32 billion for the first 9 months of the year, while consolidated net assets rose to P173.6 billion at the end of the third quarter.

## H&L kicks off 6th year in 2008

COMMERCIAL 2007 AND 2008 2008 H&L kicks off the year with its January 2008 issue filled with such content as news and features about the events and progress in the medical and healthcare industry.

January also signals the start of H&L's sixth year. In its first 54 years, H&L has been growing its office in the most prominent sectors in the Philippine medical arena. Dr. Ramon Alvarado Jr. and Dr. Theodorico Garcia for cardiology, Dr. Augustina Llaneta for endocrinology, Dr. Ricardo Francisco for dermatology, Dr. Antonio Garcia for surgery, and Dr. Mariano Perez for neurology.

Dr. Mariano Perez, who is also filled with updates on current and clinical medicine, is also featured in the January issue. Dr. Mariano Perez is also featured in the January issue.

In this year, you will find old and new with the same. With the change in name, from H&L to H&L, the magazine promises to be a new experience.

Meanwhile, H&L magazine is also featured in the January issue. H&L magazine is also featured in the January issue.

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## Quit smoking pill reduces 'pleasure' from cigarettes

A REVOLUTIONARY NEW PILL TO HELP smokers quit is set to hit the Australian market.

Changes in the brain chemistry of smokers are the key to the success of the pill.

It is also believed that the pill will help smokers to quit faster and with less withdrawal symptoms.

The UK's leading smoking cessation charity, Action on Smoking and Health, has welcomed the news.

Dr. John Britton, director of the charity, said: "This is a significant step forward in the fight against smoking."

smoke again, it is claimed. Changes in the brain chemistry of smokers are the key to the success of the pill.

The Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) has approved the pill for use in the treatment of nicotine addiction.

The pill is expected to be available in Australia in the next few weeks.

Dr. John Britton, director of the charity, said: "This is a significant step forward in the fight against smoking."

Dr. John Britton, director of the charity, said: "This is a significant step forward in the fight against smoking."

## Best 2 natural ingredients for rejuvenated skin

REjuvenated skin is the key to a youthful appearance. The two natural ingredients that are the key to a youthful appearance are collagen and hyaluronic acid.

Collagen is the most abundant protein in the body. It is responsible for the structure and strength of the skin. Hyaluronic acid is a naturally occurring substance that helps to keep the skin hydrated and plump.

## Dasia bags 3 main awards in PNP rites

THE HONORABLE BARON SECURITY and Investigation Agency (Dasia) has been awarded three main awards in the PNP rites.

Dasia has been awarded the PNP Award for Best Security Agency in 1981, 1983, and 1990.

Dasia has been awarded the PNP Award for Best Security Agency in 1981, 1983, and 1990.



# South Lake Village at ETON



## The First Residential Island Lot Development in the Country.

The Palm in Dubai, Lake Las Vegas in Nevada, Foster City in California. These are the next-generation cities, masterplanned as a massive scale, in progressive countries in the world. These developments boast world-class and sophisticated concepts and infrastructure to complement the cutting edge lifestyle of the 21st century.

Now, taking inspiration from these new world wonders, Eton Properties Philippines, Inc. introduces one of the biggest and most ambitious developments in the country - ETON CITY.

The centerpiece of the world-class city is SOUTH LAKE VILLAGE - the country's first and only community of high-end exclusive islands surrounded by a massive 35-hectare man-made lake. A proud product of nature, technology and modern engineering, these islands raise the bar in exclusivity, security, and privacy.

Situated in a sprawling, almost 1,000-hectare property in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, ETON CITY is masterplanned to unveil you with a complete city lifestyle in a nature-rich, suburban setting. It boasts high-end residential enclaves, a world-class business district, a championship golf course, and first-class leisure, entertainment, and shopping hubs effectively making it "the island of the South."

### ETON CITY High-end Redefined.



845-ETON • 0917-894ETON  
www.eton.com.ph



Eton Properties Philippines, Inc.  
Residential Development Division







# To have and to hold

A comic novel by CARLO J. CAPARAS  
Art: ANIELA ANTURA



## DAILY CROSSWORD



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## NOROSCOPE



## CONCEPTS SUDOKU



- Answers to previous puzzle
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
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| 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
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# Mickey and Minnie in Manila

MICKEY AND MINNIE ARE BACK IN Manila in the last issue of "Disney on Ice: Mickey and Minnie's Amazing Journey," which gave coverage in the America's Coliseum from Jan. 10 to 27.

Kids also say "Disney on Ice" was one of the most fun events with Mickey and Minnie, who will visit Manila.

On Jan. 15, 2009, the first 40 kids to attend the "Disney on Ice" show at the America's Coliseum will be invited to a special event at 4 p.m. on Jan. 15, 2009, at the America's Coliseum. There will also be photo ops with Mickey and Minnie.

For more info, call (02) 8555 or log on to [www.disneyonice.com.ph](http://www.disneyonice.com.ph)

Kid Fit

G  
General Audiences

R  
Restricted  
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 17

PG 13  
Parental Guidance Suggested  
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

FREE CHARGE

Please check your phone's settings to ensure it is set to receive text messages.



John Green

**GEORGINA GREENEY**  
ALBANIAN/ROMANIAN/THOMAS

Featuring  
**THX Certified Ambassadors**  
(Awards for Best of Show, Best of Show)

**THX**  
THOMAS/ROMANIAN/ALBANIAN

Does Just Set a Bar.

★★★★★  
"You're the best movie experience EVER!"

MONSTER RADIO  
**RX 93.1**



INVITE YOU TO THE ADVANCE SCREENING OF



**JAN. 12**  
**SATURDAY**  
**11:00 AM**

**ROBINSON'S**  
**GALLERIA**  
**CINEMA 1**

RTV-RATING: G

IN THEATERS  
JANUARY 16

TUNE IN TO RX 93.1 AND GET A CHANCE TO WIN FREE TICKETS!

## AT THE CINEMAS

Movie listings are subject to change without notice. For the latest information, call 777-7777.

SCREENING 1	SCREENING 2	SCREENING 3	SCREENING 4
1. DESPERADO	2. NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS	3. I AM LEGEND	4. SARAL SARALI SARALI
1. DESPERADO	2. NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS	3. I AM LEGEND	4. SARAL SARALI SARALI
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1. DESPERADO	2. NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS	3. I AM LEGEND	4. SARAL SARALI SARALI

## AT THE MALLS

SCREENING 1	SCREENING 2	SCREENING 3	SCREENING 4
1. DESPERADO	2. NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS	3. I AM LEGEND	4. SARAL SARALI SARALI
1. DESPERADO	2. NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS	3. I AM LEGEND	4. SARAL SARALI SARALI
1. DESPERADO	2. NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS	3. I AM LEGEND	4. SARAL SARALI SARALI
1. DESPERADO	2. NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS	3. I AM LEGEND	4. SARAL SARALI SARALI
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1. DESPERADO	2. NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS	3. I AM LEGEND	4. SARAL SARALI SARALI
1. DESPERADO	2. NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS	3. I AM LEGEND	4. SARAL SARALI SARALI

**ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS**

Screening on January 14, 2009 at all Ayala Plaza Cinemas

Buy your tickets in advance and get free access to Alvin and the Chipmunks.

Live at the Ayala Plaza

Schedule of that show:

January 14, 2009, 7:00 PM & 9:00 PM

January 15, 2009, 7:00 PM & 9:00 PM

January 16, 2009, 7:00 PM & 9:00 PM

January 17, 2009, 7:00 PM & 9:00 PM

**It's on the House!**

Every \$100 purchase at Robinson's Galleria restaurants from now through January 15, 2009, will earn you 1 FREE FUNDING or other benefit!

From December 15, 2007 until January 15, 2009

Robinson's Galleria Restaurants

9:00 - 10:00

- Coffee upgrade from Coffee Beans to Tea Leaf
- Ice Cream upgrade from Cold Cream to Fudge Brownie
- Free Juice - 2 Welcome Budget Drinks
- Movie Passes
- Birthday's Celebrations
- Cocktail Lounge Parties
- Reserved Tickets for Robinson's Galleria
- Red Box - Free with each for 1 person for every group of 4









